

Serial No. 09/913,708

LISTING OF THE CLAIMSRECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

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Claims 1- 11 (cancelled)

5 12. (currently amended) Apparatus (30) for reading a data stream (32) which
comprises two a multitude of raster points as reference points, the raster
points specifying a raster, two adjacent raster points defining a segment,
wherein the data stream comprises a plurality of sets of code words, a first
10 set of code words being written in the first direction and a second set of
code words being written in a second direction, the code words of the
second set being assigned to segments of the data stream in accordance
with a predetermined assignment rule, such that each code word of a set
15 being assigned to a different segment, wherein a code word of the second
set may be divided up over more than one segment in accordance with a
predetermined rule starting from which at least a part of a code word is
written in a first or second writing direction, the apparatus comprising the
following:

20 a first apparatus (36) for reading, ~~starting from the first reference point,~~ in
a first direction of reading which corresponds to the first direction of
writing;

25 and a second device (38) for reading, ~~starting from the second reference~~
~~point,~~ in a second direction of reading which is opposite to the first
direction of reading; and

a control device

30 for supplying the code words of the first set to the first reading
device, each code word of the first set starting at the first raster
point of a segment, and

35 for supplying the code words of the second set to the second
reading device, wherein one jumps to the second raster point of a
segment in accordance with the predetermined assignment rule,
and

Serial No. 09/913,708

5 wherein, after all segments have been searched for code words of the second set and at least one code word of the second set is not present or not complete, one jumps at least to one further segment in accordance with the predetermined rule in order to obtain the at least one code word of the second set completely or a part of the at least one code word.

13. (cancelled)

10 14. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim ~~13~~12, wherein, if only one starting section of a code word is read by a writing device in one segment, this starting section is stored.

15 15. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~claim 12, wherein the code words are Huffman code words.

20 16. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~claim 12, wherein the code words represent information symbols and wherein code words of the first set represent more significant information symbols than code words of the second set or of further sets.

25 17. (original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein the Information symbols are spectral values of an audio signal, and wherein the code words of the first set are spectral values which are significant from a psycho-acoustic point of view and which are to be protected from error propagation due to a transmission error in the data stream.

18. (cancelled)

30 19. (currently amended) Method ~~(30)~~ for reading a data stream ~~(32)~~ which comprises ~~two reference points, from which at least a part of a code word is written in a first and a second direction of writing, respectively~~a multitude of raster points as reference points, the raster points specifying a raster, two adjacent raster points defining a segment, in which method the data stream comprises a plurality of sets of code words, a first set of code words being written in the first direction and a second set of code words

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Serial No. 09/913,708

being written in a second direction, the code words of the second set being assigned to segments of the data stream in accordance with a predetermined assignment rule, such that each code word of a set is assigned to a different segment, wherein a code word of the second set may be divided up over more than one segment in accordance with a predetermined regulation, the method comprising the following steps:

reading the code words of the first set, starting from the a first reference raster point of a segment, in a first direction of reading which corresponds to the first direction of writing; and

reading the code words of the second set, starting from the a second raster reference point of a segment, in a second direction of reading which is opposite to the first direction of reading wherein it is jumped, for reading the code words of the second set, to the second raster point of a segment in accordance with the predetermined assignment rule, wherein, after all segments have been searched for code words of the second set or at least a code word of the second set is not present or not completely present, one jumps to at least one further segment in accordance with the predetermined rule so as to obtain the at least one code word of the second set completely or a part of the at least one code word.